



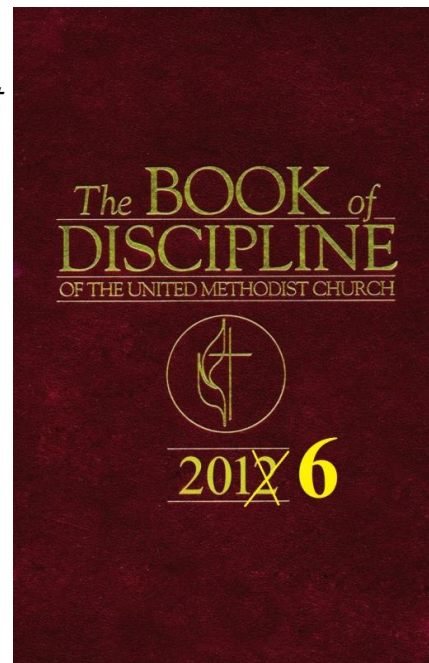
Circuit Rider Dispatch



Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.

Earlier this year the General Conference passed an amendment to the *Book of Discipline* 340.2.c(2)(c) that now clearly states the need for pastors to be involved with giving records....to provide leadership for the funding ministry of the congregation. To ensure membership care including compliance with charitable giving documentation requirements and to provide appropriate pastoral care, the pastor in cooperation with the financial secretary, shall have access to and responsibility for professional stewardship of congregational giving records. The rationale stated was: *Giving is part of our membership covenant with God and the church, which deserves careful stewardship by pastors and financial secretaries.* Pastoral leadership for member care, congregational vitality, and mission capacity improves significantly when congregations include the pastor in stewardship of donor relationships and share knowledge about congregational resources.

We strongly believe that estate planning, planned giving, Endowment and Planned Giving Ministry Committees and awareness of the potential benefits and opportunities are extremely important issues in our churches for both pastors and lay leadership. Religion still leads as the largest primary recipient of charitable giving in the USA each year with 32% of all charitable giving going to that category. Charitable bequests were about 9% of the \$373.25 billion given in the USA last year, but studies that I have seen seem to indicate that somewhere around 5% of all the charitable bequests go toward churches/religion. This just might be because we do not ask or educate about the opportunities to do so.



The Holston Conference Foundation's mission is to help the local church with the promotion and stewardship of church resources. Please [contact us](#) to discuss how we can assist your church. We want to be your trusted servant.

Regards,
Roger Redding
Executive Director



SAVVY LIVING

How and When to Apply for Social Security Retirement Benefits

What is the easiest way to apply for my Social Security retirement benefits and how far in advance do I need to apply before I start collecting? [Read More](#)

PERSONAL PLANNER

401(k) Retirement Plans

The 401(k) is rapidly becoming the most popular qualified retirement plan. More than 90% of large companies now offer a 401(k). With a 401(k), each employee has an [Read More](#)

YOUR PLAN

Bush Holley

Lawrence (Bush) Holley was a bit different. He wore a fumanchu and slept... [Read More](#)

WASHINGTON NEWS

Olympic Awards Tax Free

With a September 29 voice vote, the Senate passed the USA Olympians and Paralympians Act (H.R. 5946). The bill has been sent to President Obama, who is expected to sign it next week. [Read More](#)

FINANCES

Stocks - Nike Releases Quarterly Earnings [Read More](#)

Bonds - Treasury Yields Fall [Read More](#)

CDs and Mortgages - Mortgage Rates Decline [Read More](#)

Special Offering for South Sudan

Sunday, October 9

Local congregations across the Holston Conference have an opportunity to show their love and support to our mission in South Sudan.

With recent escalation in South Sudan of violence and economic uncertainty Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have had to pull out of the country. In the process the work and ministry of the Holston Conference continues as we minister to those dispossessed in neighboring Uganda.

The challenges in South Sudan are:

- ♦ Collapsed economy
- ♦ Challenged infrastructure
- ♦ Escalating violence

"It's a God-size problem," said the Rev. Fred Dearing, who has served in South Sudan since 2011. "The human condition is deteriorating. There is no food or medicines coming into the country, and we are looking at massive famine. And, the fighting continues."

On Sunday, Oct. 9, Holston's 881 churches will join a special offering with the goal of collecting \$150,000 to \$200,000. [Bulletin inserts are available.](#)

If you wish to give online you may do so by clicking here.

"Your gift will be used to provide temporary sanctuary in Aura, Uganda, for the 36 orphaned children and their caretakers of Grace Home and Greenland Home. These little ones are part of the future in South Sudan -- a generation of hope and peace," according to a bulletin insert prepared for the effort.

As you prayerfully consider giving to the special offering remember: However, the opportunities are:

- ♦ The church is still at work
- ♦ The children of Grace and Greenland Homes are safe
- ♦ Pastors and leaders continue God's work

For current information on the refugee situation in Uganda click [here](#).



Homes are built on plots assigned to Dinka families at Pagirinya refugee camp. The Ugandan government takes away weapons at the border. (Carolyn Thompson/CBC)